

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8-29, 64-76, 78 and 79 remain in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 30-48, and 50-63 have been canceled. Claims 3, 49 and 77 have been withdrawn.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 8-29, 64-76, 78 and 79 are directed to allowable subject matter. They have been rewritten in independent form as requested.

It is my understanding that the Examiner should be made aware of other patents and patent applications of applicants directed to similar subject matter. They are as follows:

U.S. Patent 6,379,494 "Method of making carboxylated cellulose fibers and products of the method" filed October 15, 1999 and issued April 20, 2002; continuation in part of U.S. Patent 6,514,384 filed March 19, 1999.

USP 6,524,348 "Method of making carboxylated cellulose fibers and products of the method" filed August 17, 2000 and issued February 25, 2003. It is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent 6,379,494 filed October 15, 1999 and U.S. Patent 6,514,384 filed March 19, 1999.

U.S. Patent Application 10/390,354 "Method for making piperidone ketals using phosphoric acid" filed March 14, 2003.

U.S. Patent Application 09/875,240 "Method for preparation of stabilized carboxylated cellulose" filed June 6, 2001 and now abandoned.

U.S. Patent Application 10/635,097 "Apparatus for making carboxylated pulp" filed August 5, 2003.

U.S. Patent Application 10/635,109 "Methods for making carboxylated cellulose fibers" filed August 5, 2003.

U.S. Patent Application 10/635,284 "Methods for making carboxylated pulp fibers" filed August 5, 2004.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and its early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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